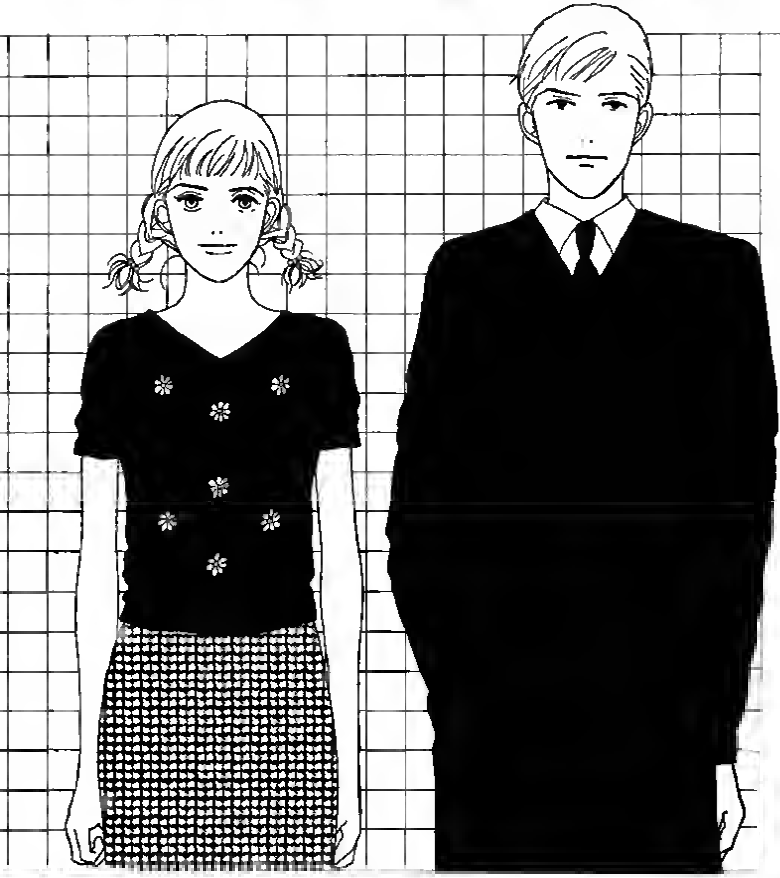
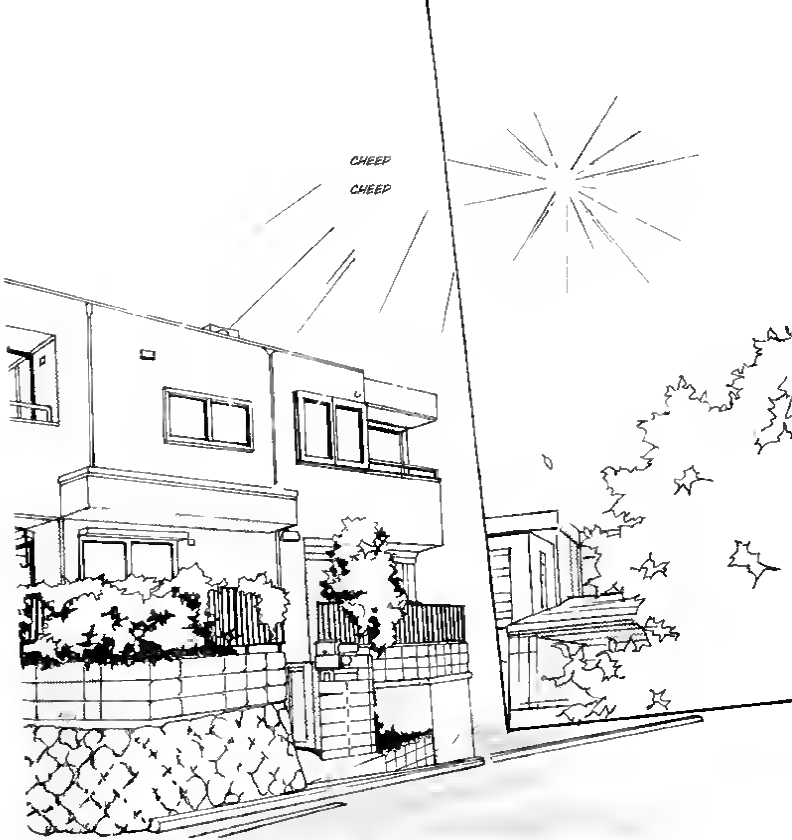
the 29 th round




CHEEP
CHEEP

SIGNS OF RISING STOCK PRICES
NIKKEI BACK TO 17,000
A WEAK YEN...
(SFX) SWISH
sigh
OH? ISN'T THAT GOOD NEWS?
DOESN'T PRICES GOING UP MEAN THE ECONOMY IS IMPROVING!?
JUST MY LUCK.

(SFX) EHHH
A BOOK WE COULD BUY FOR ¥900 IS NOW ¥1000. IT'S TERRIBLE.
¥900 is now ¥1000!?
BUT WE IMPORT FOREIGN BOOKS!
Eh
THE ECONOMY IMPROVING IS FINE,...
WE'RE ALREADY TAKING A BIG BLOW WITH THE DEPRESSED REAL ESTATE PRICES...
AND RIGHT NOW
DON'T MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT!
IDIOT
I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BUILDING.
SWEET-HEART...

BUT MORE IMPORTANT.
YOU MUST ABSOLUTELY TELL KYOKO...
GOOD MORNING.
AH...
!!
OH! GOOD MORNING!
KYOKO
MORNING
ゴホッ
ゴホッ
YOU'RE UP MIGHTY EARLY THIS MORNING.
AM I?
(SFX) COUGH COUGH

...BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO DO.
AREN'T YOU OFF FROM WORK TODAY!?
TODAY IS A SHOP HOLIDAY, SO THE GALLERY'S CLOSED.
S- SWEETHEART!
IF YOU HAVE TIME FOR THAT, WHY DON'T YOU SPEND IT STUDYING OR SOMETHING!?
YOU WANT TO DO PAINTING AT THE GALLERY, RIGHT?
...YOU SAY THAT,

THE GALLERY IS NOT YOUR PLAYHOUSE.
IT'S NO MORE THAN AN AFTER SCHOOL JOB.
IT'S MY OCCUPATION! OCCUPATION!
IF IT'S MY OCCUPATION, WHERE'S THE PROBLEM!?
(SFX) SLAM
ガタン
KYOKO!?
Occupation

SINCE YOU'RE THE OWNER.
I WANT TO ASK YOU ONE THING...
IS THE RED INK...
SO BAD THAT THE GALLERY COULD GO UNDER ANY DAY!?

RED INK!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHERE DID YOU...
ABOUT THE GALLERY GOING UNDER BECAUSE OF RED INK,
Anyway
I DON'T KNOW... I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM AKIO.
I SEE..
Hmph
THEN THAT'S FINE.
I'M SORRY.
ガラガラ
TH...
THAT'S FINE!?
KYOKO!?

KYOKO!?
有吉
(SIGN) ARIYOSHI
MRS ARIYOSHI!
MAY I HAVE SOME MORE?

(SFX) HA HA HA
THANKS
THIS TAKES A LOT MORE ENERGY THAN SCHOOL.
YOU'RE EATING MORE BREAKFAST.
GOOD-NESS... ♡
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY. ♡
(SFX) HO HO HO
ホホホ
I'LL INVEST ANY AMOUNT IN YOUR FUTURE. ♡
PLEASE HAVE ALL YOU WANT. WORK HARD AT YOUR JOB! ♡
NO PROBLEM, NO PROB-LEM ♡
(SFX) HA HA HA
no way.

Well
I'M OFF!
HURRY BACK! ♡
droo
She used to be a Tigers groupie.
MOM!
WHY IS NATSUKI LIVING HERE!?
Is he some kinda GIGOLO!?

ガク
OW
ガク
OWOW
OW...
A TRAIN WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY AT PLATFORM ONE
OW
カク
カク
DAMN
"WE ONLY NEED YOUR BRAIN POWER"...?
SUCH CRAP
わわ!
THAT OLD FART

And is even now
LATELY EVERYTHING AROUND ME HAS BEEN SUCH A FRAZZLE,
THERE'S NO WAY TO PARTICI-PATE IN ANY KIND OF SPORTS CLUB.

A BUSINESS MAN HAS TO STAY IN SHAPE. THAT'S FUNDAMENTAL.

I FEEL THE NEED TO UP MY MENTAL POWERS.
SO TO SPEAK
IN-STEAD
3F
洋書・洋雑誌／IMPOR
Art／Business／Economics
Computer／Study Guide
WHAT!?
THE FIRST-FLOOR COMPUTER ISN'T WORKING!?

DID THE HARD DRIVE CRASH!?
NO...IT'S, WELL...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
N-
NO
AN AMA-TEUR
Uh?
AND TRIED TO MOVE THE MOUSE, THE SCREEN FROZE.
ANYWAY, WHEN I REBOOTED IT,
1F
OR SOME KIND OF SYSTEM BUG.
IT'S BOUND TO BE A SIMPLE USER ERROR

AHHH!!
You have a virus.
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
Now erasing all disks...
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
P.S. Have a nice day
HUH!? WHAT'S THAT?
(HEAVY SCRIBBLE) EHHH
LOOK
ゲーンバーカー
VIRUS!? THIS!?
えぇ〜
IDIOT!
WHO PUT A GAME LIKE THAT...
THE ICON IS CONTINUING TO EAT AWAY!
TRASH
THIS IS A COMPUT-ER VIRUS!

(HEAVY SCRIBBLE) AHHH
あぁ〜っ
ALL OUR COMPANY DATA IS ON THERE!
DAMN
HOW DID THIS FUCKING VIRUS...
HEY!
WHERE IS THE BACKUP FOR THIS COMPUT-ER!?
H—!
HERE ...!
AH!
ガチャン
ガッシャーン

JUST A SECOND..
HEY. NOW...
AHH!
sheesh
GAME
GAME
GAME
WHAT?
THIS HEAP OF FLOPPIES WITH "GAME" WRITTEN ON THEM..
EH!?
AH...
AHH!
I'VE COLLECTED THEM IN MY SPARE TIME...
FROM THE INTERNET AND OTHER PLACES...
(SFX) HA HA HA HA
Oh really...
But let's keep it from the boss
In your spare time...

(SFX) HA HA HA
ACTUALLY
(SFX) AH..
JUST AS I WAS GOING HOME, I DID TRY THIS ONE OUT... ♡
By the way, which game is the one you put in most recently?
You want to try it?
IT'S NOT THAT GREAT. IT WAS FREEBIE OFF THE INTERNET AFTER ALL.
LISTEN, THAT ONE
THIS!
The source of infection
oh well
ナイッ!!

(HEAVY SCRIBBLE) AHHH
PERSONAL SOFTWARE IS FORBIDDEN!
DON'T USE GIBBERISH SOFTWARE ON WORK COMPUTERS!
あ
ボコ
ボコボコ
Gimme back my software
Sheesh
They're still here
Gahhh
Really BOSS!?
What about my games!?
Wahhh
AHH This is terrible
IS THERE A DECENT CLERK ANYWHERE IN THIS STORE!?
DAMN

(SFX) TAP TAP TAP
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE THIS BUSY SINCE THE STORE OPENED!?
Boss would you bring me ten more book covers like this?
WELCOME
WELCOME

EHH!?
PRESIDENT
I APOLOGIZE FOR DOING IT WITHOUT ASKING FIRST.
YES
YOU CHANGED THE INTERNET PASSWORD!?
I WAS ALARMED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE STORE'S COMPUTER SYSTEM.
IN THE FUTURE, I WOULD REQUEST THAT WE NOT SHARE IT WITH ANYONE WHO DOES NOT NEED TO KNOW IT.
HERE IS THE NEW PASSWORD.
ALARMED ...!?

An adjustment!?
THIS IS THE BILLING STATEMENT FROM THE NEW YORK BOOK-STORE.
AND ALSO
THE HANDLING CHARGES WERE A MESS, SO I CALLED THEM TO CHECK.
I WAS ABLE TO GET THEM TO MAKE AN AD-JUST-MENT.
AND HERE IS THE FAX OF THE BILL FOR THE CATALOG.
Eh!? That's cheap!
Here is my estimate of what the shipping costs for importing these books should be.
as you can see
AND THIS ..
For this reason I think we should stop using them as our agent
JUST WHO IS THAT GUY!?
I MEAN
THERE'S NO WAY HE'S JUST A PART-TIMER.
He seems very mature...
AMAAAA-ZING!

Current Manager→
"Ehh!? You think? So the current manager was fired!?
MAYBE HE'S THE NEW STORE MANAGER!?
EH!?
WHAT SAY? YOU WANNA COME WITH ME FOR LUNCH?
THERE'S A GREAT EEL PLACE NEARBY.
LUNCH...?

AHH...!
UNA-JUU!
DELUXE! FOR TWO!
with the liver treat-ment!
UNAJUU AGAIN! (DELUXE!)
With two glass es
And a bottle of beer
YES, SIR!
NO
THE REAL ISSUE IS
NOW, NOW, NATSUKI!

How did this happen.
N- NO! I'M FINE.
I'M STILL ON THE CLOCK.
EH
WON'T YOU HAVE A GLASS?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
ISN'T IT ABOUT LIKE WATER!?
IT'S JUST A BEER.
NO PROBLEM! NO PROB-♡LEM!
(HEAVY SCRIBBLE) HA HA HA HA
WELL, ANYWAY
CHEERS! ♡
DON'T LUMP ME WITH OLD FARTS LIKE YOU!

(SFX) HA HA HA
THE ISSUE IS
HOW IS IT I'M HAVING A BEER LUNCH AND GETTING ALL CHUMMY WITH NAGASAWA'S FATHER...
S-...
GOOD-NESS
NATSUKI!
REALLY AMAZING!
YOU'RE AMAZING!
SIR?

"WOULD HAVE"... SHEESH...
STILL!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS.
TO GET SOMEONE LIKE YOU WORKING AS A PART-TIMER FOR MY STORE... GOODNESS
(SFX) PHEW
BEING A PIDDLING PART-TIME CLERK AT A STORE LIKE OURS IS A WASTE FOR A TALENTED PERSON LIKE YOU!
WELL
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE BIG COMPANIES WOULD HAVE CHASED AFTER YOU!
(SFX) HA HA HA
A JEST INDEED THIS IS!
BUT GOODNESS, YOUNG MEN ARE GREAT.
A JEST OF THE GODS...
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF FATE.

EH!?
I MEAN WE CAN HAVE A BEER OVER LUNCH.
AND CAN TALK EASILY ABOUT WORK.
(SFX) SIGH
はぁ〜
ON THAT POINT, YOUNG WOMEN...
ARE QUITE DIFFICULT.
(SFX) HA HA HA
IS HE... TALKING ABOUT KYOKO NAGA-SAWA!?
DO YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER?
PHH
UH-HUH! IN FACT...
ONE DAUGHTER: A TOMBOY OF A SEVEN-TEEN-YEAR-OLD
KYOKO NAGA-SAWA

I INTENDED TO RAISE A MODEST AND PRETTY GIRL...
AND PAMPER AND SPOIL HER..
EH!?
MEANT TO...?
Meaning...?
THAT GIRL RAN AWAY FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN SHE WAS FIVE.
SINCE THEN...
SHE HAS NEVER RETURNED HOME.
Huh?
THE BIGGEST RIDDLE OF ALL MAY BE KYOKO NAGASAWA.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ARIYOSHI
Get me a fried pork sandwich and a curry pan
Ariyoshi!!! Go buy me a sandwich. A sandwich.
I'm sick of you Ariyoshi
ha ha ha
Buy three of them
Just five thousand yen
Raffle tickets
Ariyoshi!!! Buy these raffle tickets
Sheesh
When our classmates come around
I can't wait to be an adult
I wish they would treat me like they do you Boss
Ariyoshi, do you know the word "bullying"?